CSIR as a deemed university

1209. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is proposed to be made a deemed university; and

(b) how far this would help to enhance their research work, its quality and association with the private sector in research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed deemed university status to CSIR would give impetus to produce specialized scientific human resource in selected frontier and trans-disciplinary areas. The trained manpower is expected to further enhance the quality of research work and help to increase association with CSIR stakeholders including private sector.

New map policy

1210. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have announced a new map policy to boost the Geographical Information System (GIS) based industry as well as help to create a range of databases, which could be used in better planning and implementation of development projects;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether these maps would be freely made available to the general public as it would help both the public and private sector for development works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Cabinet has approved the New Map Policy in its meeting held on 19th May, 2005 which provides for two series of maps namely (i) Defence Series Maps (DSMs) on Everest/WGS-84 Datum and Polyconic/UTM Projection, for exclusive use by the Defence Forces, and (ii) Open Series Maps (OSMs) on WGS-84 Datum and UTM Projection in analogue and Digital form, to be used by the general public.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Open Series Maps (OSMs) will be freely available from the Survey of India to the public/private/non-governmental agencies for research, planning, infrastructure development, disaster mitigation and conservation of natural resources etc. after obtaining the one time clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

Policy on Biotechnology

1211. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that genetic experts and some of the members of the Expert Committee constituted to frame the policy on Biotechnology assailed the draft policy saying that it is for developing biotechnology and not using biotechnology for development;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this; and

(c) the genuine efforts Government are making or have made to elicit views from public and others on this proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Draft Biotech Strategy was placed on the departmental web site on 31st March 2005 and was open for comments up to 16th May 2005. More than 250 comments have been received from students; scientists from academia, research institutes and industry; policy makers; NGO's and international organizations. Consultations have also been held with representatives of NGO's, research scientists, academicians and other stake holders.

Central Electronics Limited

1212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Electronics Limited is the largest manufacturer of Solar Photovoltaic products, among top producers of c.ystalline silicon solar cells/modules;

(b) if so, what are reasons for which it is incurring operating loss for the last three years; and